

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLM seeks comments on the development of the Ridgway Travel Management Plan

RIDGWAY, Colo. - The Bureau of Land Management's Uncompahgre Field Office is seeking public comments for the route-by-route designation of about 1200 acres for roads and trails located on public land about two miles northeast of Ridgway.

The BLM is soliciting comments on this proposal to help identify issues, concerns or alternatives that should be addressed as part of the environmental analysis and decision making process. Following the comment period, the BLM will analyze the resources to designate all routes within the project area through an environmental assessment.

"The citizens from the Town of Ridgway, surrounding communities and local groups have expressed their interest in an inter-connecting trail system and increased recreational opportunities," said Barb Sharrow, BLM Uncompahgre field manager. "These interested groups and individuals expressed a need for accessible trails from the Town of Ridgway, trails adjacent and linked to Ridgway State Park, trails close to town for educational trips, interpretive programs and events and access to backcountry trails located near communities."

Further information about the project and comment forms are available at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/ufo.html. Written comments are due by Friday, May 18. Send comments to the Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: Julie Jackson, 2465 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401, cotmpufo@blm.gov or by fax to 970-240-5368.

Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this project, including email addresses and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

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